

February 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Please make note that we **oppose** significant cuts to State Library services.

Many older adults and seniors continue to be a growing population. With the dual restrictions of driving less, and often living on fixed incomes, the programs offered by CT libraries are essential. Programs, including CLC, researchIT CT, deliverIT CT, and borrowIT CT fulfill these needs. Books, DVDs, CDs, and other material are currently available to any library participating in the CT intra-library-loan (ILL) program are easily reserved and delivered without the need for additional purchase or travel. The benefits of reciprocal borrowing between libraries become obvious. Further:

- Several studies illustrate that reading books improves life. It is wonderful that so many books are available via ILL. Indeed, a study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that older people who read regularly are two and a half times less likely to have Alzheimer's (ABC News, March 6). While that doesn't mean reading alone will prevent Alzheimer's, there is a correlation between intellectual pursuits, like reading, and prevention.
- Connecticut libraries have successfully operated a de facto regional system for forty years, leveraging state, federal, and local dollars. The proposed cuts would disassemble the system and disqualify the State Library from federal funds.
- There are many delightful, entertaining, and educational programs provided year-round by the libraries, and the postings on CLC are one important way that assists librarians with selecting and engaging quality programs for the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Marie Engel

860-242-1246

Jeffrey M. Engel

860-672-6222